

# Miscellaneous Papers

## PC.21

**Finding aid prepared by Fran Tracy-Walls and Jennifer Davis, intern, Frances H.  
Wynne Endowment administered by the N.C. Genealogical Society, through June of 2013.**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

August 05, 2014

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

State Archives of North Carolina  
July 2014  
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## Summary Information

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**Repository** State Archives of North Carolina

**Title** Miscellaneous Papers

**Date [inclusive]** 1689-1912

**Extent** 7.0 boxes

**Language** English

**Language of Materials note** English

**Abstract** This is a collection of miscellaneous items such as letters, deeds, grants, surveys, wills, leases, miscellaneous items, that also included a number of photocopies and transcripts from other repositories. Writers, letter recipients, and subjects of these materials vary widely. They range from governors, generals, to ordinary citizens and cover a range of historical periods, from the pre-Revolutionary period on to the 20th century, with 21st century additions expected.

Papers from the colonial period include letters such as a contemporary abstract of letter about Governor Dobbs's marriage to a girl of fifteen. Revolutionary War letters discuss topics such as the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge and southern campaigns, loyalists, privateers, condition of soldiers, among various others. Post-Revolutionary material includes an unsigned and incomplete but detailed discussion of the U.S. Constitution; and letters about western and bounty lands (1795-1797), and more. Subjects of Civil War letters include preparations in South Carolina; blockade-running; and the fall of Fort Fisher. Postwar letters include Lillie Devereux Blake on the New York Women's Suffrage Association (1886); Jefferson Davis about North Carolina's distinguished history (1889); William Jennings Bryan to Walter Clark (1909, n.d.), as a

small sample. Throughout the collection are letters relating to court cases and personal business affairs.

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item] and volume or box number in PC.21, Miscellaneous Papers, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh, N.C., U.S.A.

## Scope and Contents note

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This is a collection of miscellaneous original materials, and a portion of photocopies and transcripts from other repositories. Historical periods represented include the colonial era, Revolutionary War, post-Revolutionary War; Civil War, Reconstruction, and into the early twentieth century, with twenty first century material anticipated. There are political items from most eras. Throughout the collection are letters relating to court cases and personal business affairs. Land papers (1696-1823), including a grant to Thomas Pollock (1722), are mostly for northeastern counties of North Carolina, especially Bertie Co. Landowners include the Tuscarora Indians. Wills include that of Cornelius Harnett (1781). The photocopies are of varied original material, with many relating to western lands, especially those of the Transylvania Company, with descriptions of Tennessee and Kentucky.

Papers from the colonial period include a contemporary abstract of letter about Governor Dobbs's marriage to girl of fifteen; duplicate of instructions from General Assembly to agents in London concerning internal taxation and the right to emit currency (1768); contemporary copy of letter to Hermon Husband describing attempts to obtain indictments against county officials at Salisbury General Court (1769); Thomas Jones to Sir Nathaniel Duckenfield about cancellation of Tyrrell Co. court session because of absence of justices (1771); and letters loyal to Gov. Josiah Martin from Archibald Neilson (1774-1775). Revolutionary War letters discuss the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge and southern campaigns, loyalists, privateers, condition of soldiers, parole of Governor Burke, and surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. There are also letters from Benjamin Hawkins in Philadelphia (1781) and as Creek Indian agent (1811).

Post-Revolutionary material includes an unsigned and incomplete but detailed discussion of the U.S. Constitution; and letters about western and bounty lands (1795-1797) from Stockley Donelson, Jesse Speight, and Tench Coxe to William Tyrrell and William Polk, with copy of letter from Thomas Blount about David Allison. There are also letters about North Carolina's debt to France (1789, 1797); reminiscences by William Polk on the Cumberland Association and by Lewis Williams and others on the Cherokee expedition of 1776; original and copied correspondence with and about the Creeks and Cherokees (1786-1788); and letters in 1816 about the Chickasaws and possible Cherokee removal.

Political items include a printed report to constituents from Lewis Williams (1810), letter on state politics from Benjamin Williams (1808), and letters on national and international politics (1818-1852) from Daniel Forney, Lewis Williams, Henry Clay, Richard Dobbs Spaight, Jr., Romulus Saunders, John Owen, Kenneth Rayner, Asa Biggs, Edward Stanly, John C. Calhoun, and Weldon Edwards. A reminiscence (1912) recalls J. Motley Morehead in the legislature of 1858-1859. Also included are letters of Gen. Joseph Graham about the Revolutionary army and militia (1808); of former slave about life in Liberia (1828); of Dr. and Mrs. Elisha Mitchell (1819-1846), including Mitchell to D. L. Swain about UNC campus; of Mitchell's sons on his death and burial; and of others about Archibald D. Murphey's finances, the State Capitol fire (1831), Cherokee lands, the Literary Fund, professional men in Hillsborough and Raleigh (1843), the Mexican War, and the insane asylum. Subjects of Civil War letters include preparations in South Carolina; discontent with N.C. Gov. H. T. Clark (1862); description of several Confederate generals (1862); blockade-running; salt; railroads; meeting of governors of Texas,

Arkansas, Louisiana, and Missouri (1864); and the fall of Ft. Fisher. Postwar letters include John A. Gilmer describing Greensboro (May 8, 1865); William A. Graham about his involvement with the North Carolina Railroad (1873); Lillie Devereux Blake on the New York Women's Suffrage Association (1886); Jefferson Davis about North Carolina's distinguished history (1889); William Jennings Bryan to Walter Clark (1909, undated); and W. W. Fuller (1910) recalling Matt W. Ransom's fight against the Force Bill.

Throughout the collection are letters relating to court cases and personal business affairs. Land papers (1696-1823), including a grant to Thomas Pollock (1722), are mostly for northeastern counties of North Carolina, especially Bertie Co. Landowners include David Stone, Archibald D. Murphey, and the Tuscarora Indians. Wills include that of Cornelius Harnett (1781). Photocopies are chiefly material relating to western lands, especially those of the Transylvania Company, with descriptions of Tennessee and Kentucky. Other copies refer to cooperation with other colonies (1768-1774); expeditions against the British at Cape Fear and against the Cherokees (1776); privateering (1778, 1812); the U.S. Constitution; politics (1803, 1808, 1840-1860); Capt. J. W. Cooke of the Albemarle, George Davis, and Victor Blue; UNC and Davidson College (1869); and state's sale in 1879 of the Western N.C. Railroad to private interests (1911).

Among the miscellaneous items in the collection is an abstract of a letter describing Governor Dobbs' marriage to a fifteen year old girl, a letter (presumably from Governor Tryon) regarding the loyalty of the people of North Carolina, correspondence concerning western lands and military land grants, North Carolina's debt to France (1797), and a review of the organization of military units in the Revolutionary War (1808). There are several letters from Ellis Ha Mitchell giving news from Chapel Hill, accounts of his trips in North and South Carolina, and proposals for improvements to the University campus (1819-1847). Also included are letters reporting the disappearance of Mitchell and the details of his death and funeral (1857-1858). Other miscellaneous correspondence deals with such subjects as private business affairs of Archibald D. Murphey, discussion of Revolutionary War Association in Cumberland County (1825), attempt to collect material for book on William R. Davie (1826), letter from a former slave who had settled in Africa (1828), description of burning of state capitol and political implications (1831), activities in Mexico during the war with that country (1847), a one-line verse signed by John C. Calhoun (1848), a review by Jefferson Davis of North Carolina history from colonial times to the Civil War (1889), reports on service of Lieutenant Victor Blue during the Spanish-American War (1898), genealogy of David Lindsey and George Durant families (1910), detailed account of sale of Western North Carolina Railroad (1911), and Governor Morehead's policy on railroad building (1912). Undated items include a letter from Thomas Sully advising the state on a portrait of George Washington, a discussion of David Schenck's history of the invasion of North Carolina by the British with specific attention to the battle of Guilford Court House, and an unsigned letter discussing the problems of procuring salt and maintaining railroads during the Civil War.

Box 6. This is photocopied material and consists primarily of material concerning the Transylvania Company lands and other western lands. These papers include descriptions of areas visited in the west and business activities and prospects for future development in Tennessee and Kentucky. Other items in this binder include: mention of privateering (1778, 1812), Revolutionary War news (including disease and activities of Congress, 1778), report of vandalism and degradation at University and bright prospects for Davidson College (1869), garrisoning of fort at Beaufort by Negro troops (1867), politics (1840-1860), and various other private and financial matters.

## Collection Arrangement

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Each of the volumes is in chronological order. For the most part, box seven is in the order in which the material was received.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

State Archives of North Carolina July 2014

### Revision Description

Additional material added and editing of the finding aid by Fran Tracy-Walls. July 2014

### Access Restrictions

Available for research

### Copyright Notice

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### Acquisitions Information

The nature of this collection renders impossible a comprehensive record of acquisition. If the source of a specific record is essential, please contact the registrar.

### Processing Information note

Processed by staff of the State Archives of North Carolina, Private Manuscripts, over a long period of years. Finding Aid (merged and revised, incorporating descriptions of various staff) by Fran Tracy-Walls and Jennifer Davis.

## Controlled Access Headings

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### Genre(s)

- deeds
- Land grants

### Geographic Name(s)

- Buncombe County (N.C.)
- Glasgow County (N.C.)
- Henderson County (N.C.)
- Lenoir County (N.C.)
- Moore County (N.C.)
- Orange County (N.C.)
- Randolph County (N.C.)
- Rowan County (N.C.)
- University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

### Personal Name(s)

- Miller, John
- Polk, James Knox
- Pollock, Thomas
- Steele, John
- Swain, David

### Subject(s)

- African Americans--North Carolina
- Battles
- Civil War, U. S., 1861-1865
- Governors--North Carolina
- Land grants--North Carolina.
- Slavery--North Carolina
- United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783

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## Sources:

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D.L. Corbitt, Calendars of Manuscript Collections, 1 vol. (Raleigh: The N.C. Historical Commission, 1926), pp. 28-101. Guide to the Manuscript Collections in the Archives of the North Carolina Historical



Commission, prepared by the N.C. Historical Records Survey Project. 1 vol. (Raleigh: The N.C. Historical Commission, 1942). pp. 96-98. Also see Guide to Private Manuscript Collections in the North Carolina State Archives.1981 edition.

## Collection Inventory

### PC.21.1. Deeds, Grants, Leases, Etc., 1697-1823 1.0 volume(s)

1697-1823: Consists of deeds, land grants, and other records relating to land transactions, and a few wills. Many of the land records are for the northeastern counties of the state: Albemarle, Chowan, Bertie, Edgecombe, Northampton, Craven, Johnston, Tyrrell, Halifax, and Martin, as well as Isle of Wight County, Virginia (1697), are represented, along with the Forked Deer and Obion River areas in Tennessee (1823). Most of the records in this volume, however, relate to land in the Roanoke River-Roquist (Rocquiss) Swamp area of Bertie County, much of which eventually passed through the hands of Governor David Stone. There are also records of transactions involving Archibald D. Murphey, and there are several long-term lease agreements between the Tuscarora Indian nation and various individuals for Indian lands in the Roanoke River area. Wills in this collection include the original will of Cornelius Harnett (New Hanover Co., 1781), and copies of those of John Paul (Northampton Co., 1762), William Tryon (1787), Allen Jones (Northampton Co., 1807), and Margaret Tryon (1818).

### PC.21.2. Correspondence, 1755-1788 1.0 volume(s)

1775-1788: Of particular interest for the pre-Revolutionary period are the letters and abstracts of letters (1768-1774) expressing sympathy and support for the people of Boston and the colony of Massachusetts in their struggle with Great Britain. These letters relate the zeal of the people of North Carolina in sending supplies to that colony. There are several pro-British letters (1774-1775) from Archibald Neilson criticizing the traitorous actions of the revolutionists, noting that the people of Boston planned to burn their town as a protest and that a ship loaded with tea had been burned at Baltimore. There is an abundance of correspondence concerning the Revolutionary War (1776-1783). Beginning in 1776 with the Scottish uprising in the east and the Indian War in the west, the letters of this period give details concerning supply shortages, problems with the drafting of men for the militia, payroll difficulties, a proposal to capture a British fort on Bald Head Island, military operations in the North, civil and-military problems, British attacks in Georgia and South Carolina and details of their fortifications (1779), exchanging of prisoners, coastal defenses, enemy raids on the Cape Fear, details of the encounter in Virginia (with the movement

**PC.21.3. Correspondence,**

of the French fleet up the James River and the approach of French and American troops to Yorktown, 1781), attempts by Alexander Martin to secure the release of Governor Burke from his imprisonment by the British, British and Tory activities after Yorktown, and continued efforts to collect provisions for the American forces (1781-1783). There are several letters to and from leaders of the Cherokee and Creek Indian nations concerning their problems (1785-1788). These include efforts to sign treaties, "injustices by the white man," "outrages by the Indians," and the Indian war that followed. Among the letters regarding the issue of the new Federal Constitution is Willie Jones' refusal to attend the Constitutional Convention (1787), a typed copy of a George Washington letter on ratification, a twenty-page detailed argument favoring the new Constitution.

**PC.21.3. Correspondence, 1789-1830 1.0 volume(s)**

1789-1830: There are a number of letters concerning Indian affairs during the 1811-1816 period as the states and the federal government negotiated with the Indians, laying the groundwork for moving them west of the Mississippi River. Later accounts of the 1776 Indian uprising were given in 1825 by Joseph Williams, (and in 1843 by John Stevenson, and in 1850 by S. McDowell. See Vol. 4 or PC.21.4). Among the letters regarding the issue of the new Federal Constitution is Willie Jones' refusal to attend the Constitutional Convention (1787), a typed copy of a George Washington letter on ratification, a twenty-page detailed argument favoring the new Constitution, and the resolves of the North Carolina convention giving amendments desired by the state (1789). Political trends continued to be a major topic of correspondence during the first half of the nineteenth century. Richard Stanford compared the policies of the Adams and Jefferson administrations (1803), Benjamin Williams discussed state elections and activities in 1808, Daniel Forney and Lewis Williams reported on national and international affairs in 1818, and such men as Henry Clay, Romulus Saunders, John Owen, and Richard Dobbs Spaight discussed politics during the 1820s with particular interest in the 1824 presidential election. Although there are a sprinkling of politically oriented letters during the 1830s, most of these are in the form of requests to politicians for patronage by their constituents.

**PC.21.4. Correspondence, 1831-1861 1.0 volume(s)**

1831-1861: There are a number of letters concerning Indian affairs during the 1811-1816 period as the states and the federal government negotiated with the Indians, laying the groundwork for moving them

**PC.21.5. Correspondence,**

west of the Mississippi River. Volume contains later accounts of the 1776 Indian uprising, including those given in 1825 by Joseph Williams, in 1843 by John Stevenson, and in 1850 by S. McDowell. Political trends continued to be a topic of correspondence, although there appear to be more in the previous volume, covering the early decades of the nineteenth century. In the fourth volume there are a sprinkling of politically oriented letters during the 1830s, most of these are in the form of requests to politicians for patronage by their constituents. There are a number of letters discussing politics, both local and national, during the 1840-1850 period. Among the correspondents on this subject are Kenneth Rayner, Asa Biggs, Edward Stanly, and Weldon N. Edwards.

**PC.21.5. Correspondence, 1861-1912, and undated 1.0 volume(s)**

1861-1912, and undated: Correspondence of the Civil War period includes news of several battles with a brief description of several top Confederate officers, conditions and discontent in Beaufort-Edgecombe County area (1862), a letter from Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson to J. E. B. Stuart on movement of troops (1863), shipment of cotton aboard the "Advance," description of life in camp, an account of George Davis' effort to flee after the fall of the Confederacy and his final capture and imprisonment, problems of supply, private difficulties after the fall of Fort Fisher, and a description of the feats of Captain James W. Cooke aboard the ironclad "Albemarle" (1874).

**PC.21.6. Correspondence, Bond, Deed, Certificate, Etc. (Photocopies), 1775-1867 1.0 boxes**

1775-1869: Box of photocopies that consists for the most part of material concerning the Transylvania Company lands and other western lands. These papers include descriptions of areas visited in the west and business activities and prospects for future development in Tennessee and Kentucky. Other items in this group include: mention of privateering (1778, 1812), Revolutionary War news (including disease and activities of Congress, 1778), report of vandalism and degradation at University and bright prospects for Davidson College (1869), garrisoning of fort at Beaufort by Negro troops (1867), politics (1840-1860), and various other private and financial matters. Prior to July of 2014, these copies were housed in a container possibly described as a binder or as a volume.

**PC.21.7. Letters, Land Records, and Miscellaneous Material 1.0 boxes**

**PC.21.7. Letters, Land Records, and Miscellaneous Material**

The material in this box has been arranged in the order in which it has been acquired and accessioned. The donors and sources vary. If more information is needed, please see the acquisition note of this finding aid.

	<b>Folder</b>
James K. Polk to David L. Swain, 29 April 1847	1
Deed for 1,0354 acres in Sampson County, 1869	2
Archives of Henderson Co. Public Library, Land records, 5 documents, Ca. 1850-1852	3
Deed, 1800, Buncombe Co. (prvd 1817). DAR App, Janie O.R. Twichell, n.d.	4
Deed, 1842 (1853 copy). Wright & Wetmore to Fayetteville Commrs. 1853	5
Deeds, Randolph Co. 1819; 1844; 1845 (and 1881 True copy), 1891	6
John Steele declaration of intent to become a citizen, 1835	7
Palfrey Letter, 22 Sept 1863; Tupper Letter, 10 July 1865	8
Deed and Bond, Rowan Co. Deed, Cooper to Brown, 1838; and Bond to make a Deed, Roseman to Brown, 1840	9
Agreement to Exchange Land, Haywood; Hawkins; Olds, 1896	10
Letita Tyler Semple Autograph, n.d.	11
James Patterson Land Grant. Orange Co., #1806, 12 July 1811	12
"An Act to provide... for public defense. ", May 1861	13
T. J. Young Letter, 16 Sept. 1863	14
John Miller letter, 1764 (1771) & certification by Thomas James, 1771	15
Specifications for a court house at Hendersonville, Henderson Co., 1845	16
Petition for Partition of land, 1852; and Eligibility for Southern Cross of Honor	17
Land Grant of Thomas Pollock, 1722	18
Account of capture by Spanish privateer at Puerto Rico in 1794, written at New Bern, 21 Apr 1798	19

**PC.21.7. Letters, Land Records, and Miscellaneous Material**

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Warrant to pay annuity to his Majesty's Keeper of the Hawks, n.d.	20
Diplomas, Philadelphia Medicate Institute, for Thomas Davis, 1829	21
Land grant to John Maxwell, Land grant to John Maxwell, 1 April 1780	22
William S. Mhoon to Richard Bunting, 27 Jan 1834	23
Private copy of Granville grant to John Patterson, 23 May 1758	24
John Faw to James Goslin, 9 July 1867	25
"The Negro Problem," 1890	26
Court minutes abstract, 1784, re forgery of tobacco notes. 1784	27
Grant of land to David Allison, Moore County, 27 May 1795	28
Invitation to the Sesqui-Centennial of the Discovery of Gold in American, Concord, N.C., 1949	29
Deeds and land records, Glasgow and Lenoir, 1790-1910	30